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March 26, 2001 LB 706

Legislature, I must reluctantly relate to you requirement of the federal government. The lurid fact is simply In the year 2006, we Nebraskans must display our tail to the nation. (Laughter) The question is whether we will do it with class. Members of the Legislature, the point of LB 706 ia to create a front-end design process and public involvement process for the purpose of engaging Nebraskans in the task, the joyful task, hopefully, of designing our quarter as part of the national 50-state commemorative quarter edition. And there is a process that's set out by the Federal Mint and the federal statutes which we need to go through. But what I wanted to do was to establish a process at the front-end to assist the Governor and to ensure that we had some...out of this process, some really high-quality designs to represent the state. think that this process will be a very visible, high-profile Everybody is interested in the quarters. kind of activity. Everybody looks at them. And hopefully, we in Nebraska will What the bill says is that have the very best quarter. it...that we will set up a quarter design committee. involves people, including experts in Nebraska history, a couple of artists, a couple of experts in coin collection, and a couple...and a person interested in Nebraska culture appointed by the Nebraska Humanities Council, a group of people who will then set in proceas...set in motion a proceas that will include going to the public and allowing the public, especially school children, to get involved in suggestions and perhaps a contest. There are a number of ways they can go about it, involving them in the quarter design procesa. And I think if you think about it a little bit, that proceas of deaigning, or picking out the one symbol, or the one or two little symbols to represent a whole bunch of different kinds of Nebraska, involves questions, questions of history, questions of art, questions of design, questions of culture, what's important to us. And so it should be a very interesting and engaging statewide discussion. And this committee then, after engaging the public in the statewide discussion, and the school kids, will recommend at least five designs to the Governor. I then passed out to you the material from the Federal Mint that tells you where the process goes from there. Essentially, the Governor then sends designs to the Federal Mint. The Federal Mint has to approve them as to form. And they send back the acceptable designs to